WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing device for forming a composite image by superimposing an overlay image on a base image, said image processing device comprising:

a fixed length data forming section for forming fixed length compressed data of the base image and fixed length compressed data of the overlay image by dividing data of the base image and data of the overlay image respectively into a plurality of blocks and by encoding a statistical parameter of each block, including a gray level representing the block, and quantization levels of respective pixels in the block; and

an image composing section for forming fixed length compressed data of a composite image by, while checking the fixed length compressed data of the base image and the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image in a block-by-block manner, taking in the fixed length compressed data of the base image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is 0 and taking in the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is not 0.

2. An image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a variable length data forming section for converting the fixed length compressed data of the composite image into variable length compressed data by quantizing the pixels of each block.

3. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the base

image and the overlay image are of a same size.

4. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of overlay images are superimposed on one base image successively.

5. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:

the overlay image is expressed by bit map data; and

the fixed length data forming section converts the bit map data into fixed length compressed data.

6. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:

the base image is expressed by bit map data; and

the fixed length data forming section converts the bit map data into fixed length compressed data.

7. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the base image is expressed by fixed length compressed data.

8. An image processing device according to claim 1, wherein:

the base image is expressed by variable length compressed data; and

the fixed length data forming section converts the variable length compressed data into fixed length compressed data.

9. An image processing program for commanding a computer to form

a composite image by superimposing the overlay image on the base image, said program comprising the steps of:

forming fixed length compressed data of the base image and fixed length compressed data of the overlay image by dividing data of the base image and data of the overlay image respectively into a plurality of blocks and by encoding a statistical parameter of each block, including a gray level representing the block, and quantization levels of respective pixels in the block; and

forming fixed length compressed data of a composite image by, while checking the fixed length compressed data of the base image and the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image in a block-by-block manner, taking in the fixed length compressed data of the base image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is 0 and taking in the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is not 0.

10. An image processing program according to claim 9, further comprising the step of:

converting the fixed length compressed data of the composite image into variable length compressed data by quantizing the pixels of each block.

11. An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein the base image and the overlay image are of a same size.

12. An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein one

base image is combined with a plurality of overlay images successively.

13. An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein:

the overlay image is expressed by bit map data; and

at the step of forming fixed length compressed data, the bit map data is converted into fixed length compressed data.

14. An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein:

the base image is expressed by bit map data; and

at the step of forming fixed length compressed data, the bit map data is converted into fixed length compressed data.

15. An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein the base image is expressed by fixed length compressed data.

16 An image processing program according to claim 9, wherein:

the base image is expressed by variable length compressed data; and

at the step of forming fixed length compressed data, the variable length compressed data is converted into fixed length compressed data.

17. A method for forming a composite image by superimposing an overlay image on a base image, said method comprising the steps of:

forming fixed length compressed data of the base image and fixed length compressed data of the overlay image by dividing data of the base image and data of the overlay image respectively into a plurality of blocks

and by encoding a statistical parameter of each block, including a gray level representing the block, and quantization levels of respective pixels in the block; and

forming fixed length compressed data of a composite image by, while checking the fixed length compressed data of the base image and the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image in a block-by-block manner, taking in the fixed length compressed data of the base image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is 0 and taking in the fixed length compressed data of the overlay image if the gray level of the block of the overlay image is not 0.